

Oak Park
June 9th

My dear Absentees.

That delightful budget of letters came at a much needed time & has indeed been a feast. Maria's and Gracie's were delightful but yours old Chap some-what curtailed you are a better boy than usual however. Just as I was feasting my hungry soul on them, Dr. Humphrey brought an elderly Minister to look at the house. He was rather stupid & I think is liable to do anything, buy or rent, so Beddard & Beddard had better hustle. I selected to the best of my ability the pattern flower frames etc this morning, & found to my astonishment that he expected to finish the dining room & library with common paint. I certainly think that will spoil the house. It looks too rich & handsome for anything so fearfully primitive.

Summer is over, and we
are having a gloomy cold
rain. It was so cold on
Saturday night I had to
get up for more blankets.
Poe Lytle started fishing
this morning, I was awake
from three to lock nervous
about starting him off in
time so had to take a nap
this afternoon which has
made me rather stupid
together with the storm.
There is no news about the
Methodist girl I am waiting
to hear from Mrs. Bob Hanger.
The girl who was three
years with Mrs. Crawford
the chances are that I may
get her. I have written she
is a sister of Emma's girl
who is anxious to get her home.
The one I wrote you of who
recommended as good in all
respects is subject to rheumatism
& does not like to be interfered
with, in other words objects
to the moose being in the
kitchen, so as our family
boasts of two Missuses she
might not have the supreme
dominion she desires.

I have concluded to let
her simmer for a while.
I keep you so thoroughly
frustrated that it is hard to
scrape up material for a
letter. Nettie's sister is with
her & two children. Emma
doing wonders in the chil-
dren exhibition line as usual.
Miller is better, also Will.
I am glad my birdling is
feasting on childrens love
& flowers, but sorry she is
quite so indiscriminate
about her diet. (Do try and
get that stomach regu-
lated. Who knows how much
the nerves are affected by
its upsetting. My throat
feels abominably sore, I
think sometimes it is
from getting heated in
the kitchen. It is always
worse when I am tired,
but this spell of cool weather
does not seem to make any
difference. Lessee's cold is
getting well fast. I manage
to keep him satisfied internally
without much trouble, he
isn't fussy, but very tired out
with school since it got warm
only two more days of real study now.

I expect I shall be hard
put to it to know what to do
with him in vacation.
Mamma writes cheerfully I am
so glad the picture turned up
you must have thought that
poor Dora had been around
Notice justice thou are a
rarity. (Do you get any blue
fish yet? I want Grace to eat
all the sea food possible.
I know it is not necessary to
suggest that to the rest of you
We had such a sweet restful
Sabbath yesterday, Jess & I had
an invitation to spend it with
the Wilsons, & attend children
day services at St Pauls, but
I declined on Tylys account.
We had childrens services in
the morning a nice dinner
which I don't mind cooking
a bit, it was so cool, then
Sunday school, a visit to the
house, & another lovely service
in the evening. We all agreed
it had been a perfect day.
Tyle seemed quite well & happy
Just had supper Jess is going
to the gymnasium as the
committee will keep me
company. Supper was good
the cool fresh air makes me
hungry. It is so blessedly quiet I
cant get enough solitude.

I have just heard the loudest
news of the man who was hurt.
He is able to be out and his boss
is giving him \$2.00. a day to look
after the other man. Now Ernest
a word about the house. Miller
is very unwilling for you to have
the lower floor finished in pine
& has been figuring with Bedard
about doing it differently. Bedard
will give me his figures this after-
noon. A rough guess is \$82.00 ^{extra} for
Cypress all over the lower floor
finished in oil. I have just been
looking at some pine finished
as you proposed & it looks so mean
even compared to the house Miller
is in which is finished in what
they call hard finish that is a
clear polish. Miller says the
seams are already widening
terribly & looking mean. He says
it would starve the horse on
sight as being cheaply built

The many telegraph figures to you
tonight, then you must lose
nothing in sending your de-
cision. Bedard says oak
^{doors} would have to be renewed
& that it would delay the
house two months, but as
he expects to finish it by
the 1st of July that would
still give us till the 1st Sep.
I do not advocate the Oak
as that would make too
much difference in the price
over \$50 dollars. I am sorry
to have to bother you so often
but there are so many counsels
& I am anxious that the best
advice should be taken.
^{no} kindest love to all Give your
distracted Mother wife & child



M^r Ernest Hall.
Springfield House.
Nantucket Is.
Mass.

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